UNITED NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/1998/L.35
29 July 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session 1998
New York, 6-31 July 1998
Agenda item 8

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 50/227 AND 52/12 B

Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1998/L.18

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

1. Under the term of draft resolution E/1998/L.18 the Economic and Social Council would (a) adopt the texts contained in the annexes to the draft resolution, (b) decide to hold, at its resumed substantive session of 1998, elections for the composition of the bodies, as laid down in annex I to the draft resolution, so that those bodies would be fully constituted from 1 January 1999; and request the Bureau to work out appropriate mechanisms for the holding of the elections for that purpose and (c) decide to bring the resolution to the attention of the General Assembly in pursuance of paragraph 70 of annex I to Assembly resolution 50/227 and paragraphs 9 and 10 of Assembly resolution 52/12 B. Annex I to the draft resolution provides, inter alia, for the following:

(a) The Commission on Science and Technology for Development would remain a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council and would continue to meet biennially for two weeks; UNCTAD would continue to serve as the secretariat of the Commission; the membership of the Commission would be reduced from 53 to 33, with the following geographical distribution: eight members from African States; seven members from Asian States; six members from Latin American and Caribbean States; four members from Eastern European States; and eight members from Western European and other States. The term of office is to be four years.

(b) The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development and the Committee on Natural Resources would be merged into a single expert body to be named the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for

Development which would serve as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council. The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development would comprise, with due attention to geographical representation and gender balance, two sub-groups of twelve experts nominated by Governments and approved by the Economic and Social Council. One sub-group would deal with issues relating to energy, the other with issues relating to water resources. The geographical distribution would be as follows: six members from African States; five members from Asian States; four members from Latin American and Caribbean States; three members from Eastern European States; and six members from Western European and other States. The term of office would be four years. The Committee would meet biennially for two weeks on the understanding that the days available would be divided evenly in a flexible manner between the two sub-groups. Upon the recommendation of both or either of the expert groups of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, the Economic and Social Council might decide modalities for the establishment of ad hoc expert groups, when necessary, to consider issues relating to minerals.

2. The above proposals relate to sections 11A, Trade and development, and 7A, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

3. It is assumed that the meetings of the existing committees, scheduled for 1998, will be cancelled. It is also assumed that the restructured Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the new Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development would meet in 1999.

4. The members of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development would be entitled to travel but not to a daily subsistence allowance, as is the case for other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. In addition, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/75 of 30 July 1993, it is assumed that the Commission would continue to receive specialized and technical advice from the ad hoc panels that will meet also once in the biennium to review/examine specific issues of science and technology for development and advise the Commission thereon. A provision of $352,500 was appropriated in the current biennium under section 11A of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. The related costs for the 1999 session of the restructured Commission would amount to approximately $292,500.

5. Provisions of $142,300 for the Committee on Natural Resources and of $115,000 for the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development were made under section 7A of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. It is assumed that, as for the two restructured Committees, the members of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development would be entitled to travel and a daily subsistence allowance. On that basis, it is estimated that the related 1999 requirements of the new Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development would amount to $164,400.

6. Since the entitlements for meeting servicing, interpretation and translation of documentation have not been modified in the draft resolution, it is assumed that the servicing of the biennial sessions of the restructured Commission on Science and Technology for Development and of the new Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development would remain at the same level as that of their predecessors. In the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

provision has been made under section 27E, Conference services, for the servicing of the sessions of the Commission and Committees that would be restructured under the terms of the draft resolution. On that basis, the conference-servicing requirements for the restructured bodies would be met from within the existing appropriation under section 27E.

7. The estimated requirements of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, as compared to the provisions made in the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, would be as follows:

	Commission on Science and Technology for Development (section 11A)	Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development (section 7A)	Total
Travel participants			
Existing provision in 1998-1999 programme budget	$ 352 500	$ 257 300	$ 609 800
Revised requirements	292 500	164 400	456 900
Reduction in requirements	60 000	92 900	152 900

C. Summary

8. Should the Economic and Social Council adopt draft resolution E/1998/L.18, it is estimated that such decision would result in a reduction in requirements of $152,900 (including $60,000 under section 11A, Trade and development, and $92,900 under section 7A, Economic and social affairs) during the biennium 1998-1999. It is proposed that such reduced requirements be reflected in the first performance report of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.